

Local RESTORE Council
August 11, 2014
Milton, Florida

Those present: Chairman Lane Lynchard, Buzz Eddy, Brian Watkins, Dave Robau, Tony Alexander, Donna Tucker, Cal Bodenstein, Greg Fountain, the County Administrator (Hunter Walker), the County Attorney (Roy Andrews), and the County Engineer (Roger Blaylock). Lynchard called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Lynchard moved approval without objection of the minutes of the July 14, 2014 meeting

Update on NRDA, RESTORE, Gulf Consortium, Other

Jeff Helms (Atkins, North America) said he anticipated giving a summary of the Treasury guidelines at today's meeting. He said the Treasury guidelines were not distributed Friday, as expected. Helms gave a power point presentation to the Council (Attachment in file). He gave an overview of the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council's meeting, held on July 25, 2015. Helms said Commissioner Melvin, Robau, Bodenstein, and himself recently attended a meeting with Senator Bill Nelson on August 6th. He said the Treasury expects to issue application instructions and further guidance shortly after the guidelines are published. Helms said on August 7, 2014, he and Melvin also attended the Gulf Consortium Executive meeting that was held at Pensacola Beach. He gave an overview of this meeting. Helms said he encourages this Council to put together a plan for Transocean funds. He said in September, he will review the Treasury guidelines with the Council and present the findings and its impact on Santa Rosa County. Tucker asked if the Council will get to review the guidelines before the September meeting. Helms said yes. He said Walker will distribute these guidelines as soon as they are received. Helms said the Council members should read over the guidelines and forward any questions to Walker. He further discussed a potential draft timeline for the Local RESTORE Council.

Draft Project Score Sheet Review

Helms gave an overview of his recommendations for modifying the sample project scoring sheet for economic development (Attachment in file).

There was discussion of selection criteria 4 and leveraging applicant funds. Helms said he and Shannon Ogletree will take another look at this criterion.

Helms said he wants the Council to be considering a program of work. He said he will present the final Treasury guidelines at next month's meeting.

Lynchard said he feels it is important to note that this is the first multi-year implementation plan that the Council is developing for Transocean money. He said after the Council has gone through the process once, there will be the chance to come up with a plan for the other shares of funding.

Public Forum

Ralph Agnew said he hopes the Council will take the proximity to where the impact from the oil spill occurred into consideration under the "environmental" and "tourism" criteria.

Jessica Koelsch (National Wildlife Federation) said she would encourage the Council to add a category or selection criteria that will deduct points should a project inadvertently cause environmental harm. She said she does not feel a beach re-nourishment project should go under the environmental category. Koelsch said beach re-nourishment should be placed under tourism, infrastructure, or economic development. She said there should be a way to award bonus points to projects that can fall under more than one category and benefit the County in more than one way. Koelsch said the National Wildlife Federation and a lot of others would like to see the State of Florida come up with a single master plan. She said this may allow more opportunities for leveraging funds.

Romi White asked when a new District 2 representative appointment will be made to the Council. Lynchard said this will be done at Board of County Commission meeting.

Helms said he agrees with leveraging funds, but feels the County needs to move forward with good foundational projects.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council at time, the meeting adjourned.

By: Lane Lynchard, Chairman